crore in revised estimates for 1999-2000. To curb built in expenditure growth and bring about structural changes in the composition of expenditure the Union Budget for 2000-2001 have announced several initiatives. These among other include regorous zero base budgetting scrutiny of all ongoing schemes, reassessment of manpower requirements and limiting fresh recruitment to minimum in government departments, review of all subsidies, earmarking portion disinvestment proceeds for retiring government debt etc. Besides, for medium term management of the fiscal deficit a committee has been set up to examine and make suitable recommendations for a strong institutional mechanism embodied in a Fiscal Responsibility Act. For expenditure management and restructuring an Expenditure Commission has also been set up.

Performance of Debt Recovery Tribunals

1309. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Debt Recovery Tribunals established so far, State-wise, alongwith date of establishment;

(b) whether the public sector banks throughout the country have expressed serious concern over the slow progress of the Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(c) if so, the total number of cases registered and amount involved in the various Debt Recovery Tribunals as on January 31, 2000;

(d) the number of cases disposed off by and pending in various Debt Recovery Tribunals during the last three years and the amount recovered; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to improve the performance of Debt Recovery Tribunals throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The details of the Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) established so far is given below:

SI.No.	Location of DRT	Date of Establishment
1	Calcutta	27-04-1994
2	Delhi	05-07-1994

SI.No.	Location of DRT	Date of Establishment
3	Jaipur	30-08-1994
4	Bangalore	30-11-1994
5	Ahmedabad	21-12-1994
6	Chennai	04-11-1996
7	Guwahati	07-01-1997
8	Patna	24-01-1997
9	Jabalpur	07-04-1998
10	Mumbai	16-07-1999
11	Hyderabad	21-09-1999
12	Ernakulam	04-10-1999

(b) The progress of the DRTs has been affected on account of certain court cases, including the one in Delhi High Court declaring the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act) null and void. The Government has however filed a Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. DRTs are functioning under the stay order granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order passed by the Delhi High Court.

(c) and (d) As reported by the DRTs as on 30th September, 1999 (latest available), 32836 cases involving an amount of Rs. 33394.57 crores were transferred/filed with DRTs. Out of these case 10462 cases involving an amount of Rs. 4566.84 crores have been disposed of by DRTs and an amount of Rs. 820 crores has been realized.

(e) To make the DRTs more effective Government have decided to set up five more additional DRTs at Hyderabad, Ernakulam, Allahabad, Chandigarh and Cuttack. Out of these additional DRTs, DRTs at Hyderabad and Ernakulam have already been established and establishment of remaining additional DRTs is under process. Government have also amended the DRT Act through an Ordinance dated 17-01-2000 to give more power to the DRTs.

News-item captioned "it's party time till ice breaks the sensex"

1310. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the column "It's party time, till ICE breaks the sensex" which appeared in "Indian Express" dated 13th February. 2000;